



BANNACK GHOST TOWN
Travel Montana photo



CULTURAL SITES

There's more to Montana's State Parks than just breathtaking scenery. The parks are actually windows into our storied past and diverse culture. From ghost towns that showcase our boom-and-bust mining history to awe-inspiring buffalo jumps that recall a unique culture, there's no better way to discover Montana's heritage. Not only are these sites meaningful to Montana history, but six parks have been designated National Historic Landmarks and nine parks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These parks feature monuments that pay tribute to great historic events and figures like Montana's rich American Indian legacy, the first white settlement, our early pioneers and of course, Lewis & Clark. Give yourself and your kids a history lesson that will be truly enjoyed by visiting any of the following State Parks.

MONTANA HISTORY

ANACONDA SMELTER STACK*

The 585-foot Anaconda Copper Company smelter stack completed in 1919 is one of the world's tallest free-standing brick structures and can be viewed at a distance where signs detail its history.

Viewing area at east end of Anaconda on 4th St.
(Lat 46.11, Lng-112.914) Phone (406) 542-5500.



FORT OWEN*

This first permanent white settlement is the site of many Montana "firsts," including the state's first Catholic church, founded in 1841. Interpretive signs and exhibits detail the site's history.

25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. 93 to Stevensville Junction, then .5 miles east on Secondary 269.
(Lat 46.52, Lng-114.097) Phone (406) 542-5500.

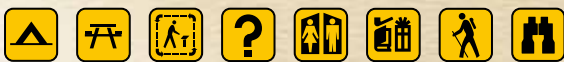


GHOST TOWNS

BANNACK (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

More than 50 buildings, weathered by the seasons, still stand in Montana's first territorial capital and the site of Montana's first major gold discovery on July 28, 1862. Stroll down the boardwalks on Main Street and wander through the deserted buildings in one of Montana's best preserved ghost towns.

Located in southwestern Montana. Take I-15 south of Dillon to Exit 59 (Hwy 278 exit). Drive west on Hwy 278 for 18 miles. Turn south onto the Bannack Road and travel four miles. Park entrance road will be on the left-hand side.
(Lat 45.163, Lng-112.995) Phone (406) 834-3413.



ELKHORN*

This historic mining town of boom and bust features two impressive structures, Fraternity Hall and Gillian Hall, both examples of frontier architecture. These are the only two buildings in the town of Elkhorn that are publicly owned. Please respect private property while visiting this site.

I-15 at Boulder exit, 7 miles south on MT 69, then 11 miles north on county road. (Lat 46.275, Lng-111.946)
Phone (406) 495-3260.



GRANITE*

Nicknamed "Montana's Silver Queen," Granite had its heyday in the 1890s. Today the park is comprised of the Superintendent's House and the ruins of the Miner's Union Hall which featured the "Northwest's Finest Dance Floor."

From Philipsburg, east on Hwy 10A, South on Sansome, east on gravel road opposite Center St. approximately 4 miles from townsite. (Lat 46.319, Lng-113.257) Phone (406) 542-5500.

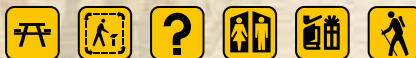


AMERICAN INDIAN

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

Apsáalooke (Crow) Chief Plenty Coups and his wife willed their log home and farmstead as a place for all cultures to come together in a cooperative nature. Visit their two-story log cabin and modern interpretive center.

Billings Exit 447 off I-90, 35 miles south to Pryor, 1 mile west. (Lat 45.429, Lng-108.549) Phone (406) 252-1289.



COUNCIL GROVE

A beautiful monument commemorates the Hellgate Treaty which created the Flathead Indian Reservation. Also a great park for birdwatching and fishing access to the Clark Fork River.

In Missoula on I-90 at Reserve St. Exit, 2 miles south on Reserve St., then 10 miles west on Mullan Rd.
(Lat 46.911, Lng-114.161) Phone (406) 542-5500.



PICTOGRAPH CAVE (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

Prehistoric hunters left their mark on the cave walls as early as 10,000 years ago. A full service visitor center, staff, and printed trail guides explain why Pictograph Cave is known as the "the birthplace of Montana archaeology."

In Billings on I-90 at Exit 452, then 6 miles south on county road. (Lat 45.738, Lng-108.433)
Phone (406) 254-7342.



MADISON BUFFALO JUMP*

Nomadic tribes stampeded buffalo over this cliff and used the remains for food, clothing and shelter. Hike to the top of the jump for impressive views of the Madison River valley.

23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90 at Logan Exit, then 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Road. (Lat 45.795, Lng -111.462)
Phone (406) 994-4042.



FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP*

Formerly known as Ulm Pishkun, this is one of the largest buffalo jump sites in the world. For thousands of years people gathered here to hunt and celebrate. A modern visitor center, featuring exquisite dioramas and hands-on activities, explains the importance of the buffalo to the native people of the Plains. Wheelchairs available.

10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15 at Ulm Exit, then 3.5 miles northwest on Ulm-Vaughn road.
(Lat 47.488, Lng-111.526) Phone (406) 866-2217.



ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

This remote location is the site of one the largest battles ever waged between American Indians and the U.S. Army. Though the battle was a draw, it was a strategic victory for the Lakota (Sioux) and Tse' tsehestahese (Cheyenne) eight days before Little Bighorn.

25 miles east of Little Bighorn Battlefield on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road. The last 1.5 miles are on unpaved roads.
(Lat 45.219, Lng-106.978) Phone (406) 234-0900.



LEWIS & CLARK

GIANT SPRINGS

One of the largest freshwater springs in the world, Giant Springs flows at 156 million gallons a day. Visit the adjacent fish hatchery, walk along the River's Edge Trail or visit the nearby Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Wheelchairs available.

2 miles east of U.S. 87 on Giant Springs Road, Great Falls.
(Lat 47.53, Lng-111.232) Phone (406) 454-5840



TOWER ROCK*

Tower Rock is a landmark noted by Meriwether Lewis in his July 16, 1805 journal entry. This igneous rock formation is 424 feet high and stands in the mouth of the canyon where the Missouri River flows.

South of Cascade, the east side of Tower Rock is visible from I-15 and can be accessed by using Exit 247 at Hardy Creek. (Lat 47.181, Lng-111.816)
Phone (406) 454-5840.



MISSOURI HEADWATERS (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

Captain Lewis stood on top of a limestone cliff and saw the three rivers that formed the Missouri River. He named the tributaries Madison, Gallatin and Jefferson. Interpretive signs, hiking trail, campground and rental tipi all make this park a convenient and informative stop.

4 miles northeast of Three Forks, off Hwy 205, then onto Hwy 286. (Lat 45.924, Lng-111.498) Phone (406) 994-4042.



BEAVERHEAD ROCK*

As the Corps of Discovery moved into the area of current-day Dillon, Sacagawea recognized a landmark indicating a spot where the Shoshone camped. The Shoshone called the landmark "Beaver's Head," because the formation resembles the head of a swimming beaver. No services.

14 miles south of Twin Bridges on MT 41.
(Lat 45.385, Lng-112.46) Phone (406) 834-3413.



John Lambing photo

CLARK'S LOOKOUT*

Interpretive signage explains the navigational techniques used by Lewis & Clark. Walk the trail to the top of this promontory to stand where Clark stood and view the scenery. A granite monument at the summit depicts the three compass readings Clark took.

1 mile north of Dillon on Hwy 91.
(Lat 45.235, Lng-112.634)
Phone (406) 834-3413.



TRAVELERS' REST (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)

This is the only site on the Lewis and Clark Trail where archaeological evidence has been pieced together confirming a Corps encampment. The Corps established this campsite in September, 1805, and camped here again on the return journey in 1806.

8 miles south of Missoula to Lolo, then 1/2 mile west on U.S. Hwy 12. (Lat 46.751, Lng-114.089) Phone (406) 273-4253.



PIROGUE ISLAND

Captain Clark, his men and Sacagawea are believed to have camped on Pirogue Island on their return trip in 1806. The site is a haven for waterfowl, bald eagles, and whitetail and mule deer.

1 mile north of Miles City on MT 59, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road. (Lat 46.436, Lng-105.821)
Phone (406) 234-0900.

